

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to cancel Claims 1 - 13 and add new Claims 14 - 26 as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 13 (Canceled)

14. (New) A switching device comprising:
a movable switching element; and
an electrical switch in operative connection to the switching element, the
switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection
between the switching element and the electrical switch.
15. (New) The switching device according to claim 14, wherein the movable
switching element includes a striker that can be displaced linearly against a
biasing force.
16. (New) The switching device according to claim 15, wherein the electrical switch
has a displaceable switching pin which can be actuated by a trip cam provided on
the outer circumference of the displaceable striker.
17. (New) The switching device according to claim 15, wherein the striker is
rotatable about its longitudinal axis.
18. (New) The switching device according to claim 15, wherein the striker is
operable to separate the operative connection between the switching element and
the electrical switch.

19. (New) An arrangement for detecting at least two different positions of a movable door element, the arrangement comprising:

a switching device having a movable switching element and an electrical switch in operative connection to the switching element, the switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch, the door element and the switching device having an operative connection therebetween and the operative connection between the door element and the switching device being selectively separable.
20. (New) The arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the movable switching element includes a striker and the striker being movable out of a region of engagement of the door element by at least one of a displacement and a lowering movement.
21. (New) The arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the striker can be lowered by means of a link mechanism.
22. (New) The arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the operative connection between the switching device and the door element can be separated by exposing a depression arranged in the door element to partly receive the striker.
23. (New) The arrangement according to claim 22, wherein the depression can be exposed by means of a slider arranged in the door element.
24. (New) A household appliance comprising:

at least one electrical load in the form of a selected one of an electrical interior light and an electrical load that is not an electrical interior light, the at least one electrical load being actuatable by a selected one of a switching device having a movable switching element and an electrical switch in operative connection to the

switching element with the switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch and an openable door element arrangement including a switching device having a movable switching element and an electrical switch in operative connection to the switching element with the switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch and the door element and the switching device having an operative connection therebetween and the operative connection between the door element and the switching device being selectively separable.

25. (New) The household appliance according to claim 24, wherein the switching-on and switching-off function for the at least one electrical load can be deactivated by separating the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch.
26. (New) The household appliance according to claim 24, wherein the switching-on and switching-off function for the at least one electrical load can be deactivated by separating the operative connection between the switching device and the door element.